# JFSP Project Highlights Research Supporting Sound Decisions June 2005

# Technology in Support of Wildland Fire Research and Management FRAMES

http://frames.nbii.gov/



The JFSP, a partnership of six federal wildland fire and research organizations, provides scientific information and support for fuel and fire management programs.

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### Background

Fire managers rely on research, modeling software, fire reviews and myriad other information in order to plan and manage fires for specified objectives. Fire managers exchange information in many ways. Although the internet has provided easy access, the many tools and research managers need are located in many different locations and it can be difficult and time consuming to search for the appropriate information. With a rapidly increasing number of fire management tools available it can be complicated to determine which is the appropriate one to use. The Fire Research And Management Exchange System (FRAMES) is a systematic approach for cataloguing wildland fire data, documents, metadata, tools, and other information resources through the internet. The goal of FRAMES is to make fire tools, information and other resources easy to find, access, distribute, compare, and use via the Internet.

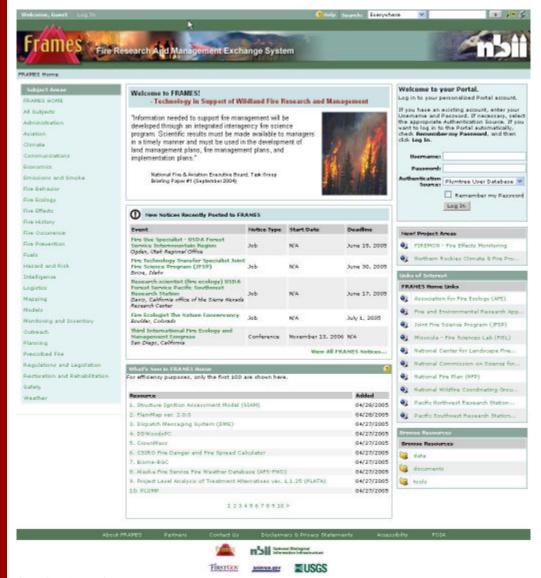


#### The Program

FRAMES infrastructure is designed to provide services and deliver content to many different kinds of users with multiple needs. Similar to Google or Ebay, FRAMES is an effort to provide one point access to information resources and tools that are related to wildland fire. Two objectives guide the development of FRAMES infrastructure. (1) Product or content providers must have an efficient system to add and edit their content and also receive feedback from users. (2) Product or content users must have a system where they can easily find most if not all the relevant products/content and then be able to compare and rate them. In order to accomplish these objectives, FRAMES is developing a standards based cataloging and search system. Content to be catalogued and cross-referenced can be subdivided into 6 types of Resources. Currently, FRAMES Resources includes data, documents, and tools. Soon, FRAMES will also catalog projects, programs, and websites. For each resource, a record (metadata) is created and within the record there is a link to the actual data, document, or tool. The metadata record resides with FRAMES, but the actual resource may be hosted by FRAMES or located elsewhere. FRAMES currently supports 8 different types of notices: call for papers, conference or symposium, job, meeting, request for proposal, training, workshop, or general. All FRAMES content can be managed for public or limited access. Users can search FRAMES by either subject or geographic area.

FRAMES currently describes and provides access to over 100 tools and over 150 supporting documents. FRAMES is hosting the Fire Effects Monitoring and Inventory Protocol (FIREMON) website and is arranging to host websites for two JFSP funded projects. Five project teams are using FRAMES project management services and discussions are underway with other researchers to provide access to or host their data, documents, tools, and websites. FRAMES has helped develop and hosted FRCC on-line training and will be helping deliver courses for fire professionals seeking to meet academic requirements for GS-401 series/IFPM.

FRAMES is collaborating with other researchers on three JFSP funded projects to gather geographically based research deliverables. Content from these efforts will be the foundation for geographic portals in the Northwest, Southern US, and Alaska. These geographic portals mirror the boundaries of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GAAC). FRAMES is being designed to provide long-term maintenance for these three geographic portal projects as well as online tools for adding to this foundation of content.



# Coordination and support

FRAMES has teamed up with the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII). NBII is an electronic information network that provides access to biological data and information on our nation's plants, animals, and ecosystems. NBII and FRAMES work in concert to further science application by helping people in federal and state agencies, other organizations and the public find and use wildland fire and fuels science. Like FRAMES, NBII provides common access to data and information that is maintained by and resides with a variety of agencies and organizations.

NBII has made a significant investment in information infrastructure and is making their resources available to FRAMES. NBII is also helping FRAMES meet federal information technology (IT) requirements. The FRAMES and NBII partnership is an excellent opportunity to share expertise, leverage technical capabilities, and demonstrate the value of connecting tools, information, and people.

FRAMES is being developed and managed at the University of Idaho with the help of an advisory board representing many different partners. Supporters and cooperators include: Fire Sciences Lab, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire and Environmental Research Applications, Pacific Southwest Research Station, National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis, Tall Timbers, The Nature Conservancy, Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units, National Association of State Foresters, Southern Research Station, Northeastern Research Station, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, University of Montana, and the University of Washington.

#### **Future Development**

FRAMES is poised to begin the transition from a research project to an operational program that supports the needs of the wildland fire research and management communities. A strategic plan will outline future development and long-term management of the program. The future will include the ability to compare various tools to determine which one best meets the land managers current needs and input from users as to the usefulness and experience with various tools.

## Comments sought

FRAMES can be accessed on the world wide web at: <a href="http://frames.nbii.gov/">http://frames.nbii.gov/</a>. Please provide comments in order to help us improve the efficacy of the site and to help set priorities for future developments. Through the "contact us" tab on the web site, please enter comments regarding what you would like to have the site do, any modifications you would find helpful, and any mechanical problems you have experienced. You will see how your input has improved the site and helped make fire management information more accessible to all.

# **Principal Investigators**

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